

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising stem cells for introducing into a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining adipose tissue from said patient;
- (b) processing said adipose tissue to separate cells therein from other tissue components; and
- (c) purifying the separated cells from other tissue components;

wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other purified cells, thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising adipose tissue-derived stem cells.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said purified cell population further comprises one or more cells selected from the group consisting of: red blood cells, white blood cells, fibroblasts, fibroblast-like cells, neutrophils, monocyte/macrophages, and basophils.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said purified cell population further comprises one or more tissue components selected from the group consisting of: extracellular matrix polypeptides or fragments thereof, proteoglycans, cytokines, and growth factors.

4-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~+2, +3, +6, or +8, 1~~ wherein said adipose tissue is obtained from the tail head region of the animal.

21. (Original) A method of preparing a composition comprising purified adipose tissue-derived stem cells for introducing into an animal, comprising:

- (a) obtaining adipose tissue from the tail head region of said animal;
- (b) processing said adipose tissue to separate cells therein from other tissue components; and
- (c) purifying the separated cells from other tissue components, thereby preparing a composition comprising purified adipose tissue-derived stem cells.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises one or more cells selected from the group consisting of: red blood cells, white blood cells, fibroblasts, fibroblast-like cells, neutrophils, monocyte/macrophages, and basophils.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises one or more tissue components selected from the group consisting of: extracellular matrix polypeptides or fragments thereof, proteoglycans, cytokines, and growth factors.

24-31. (Cancelled).

32. (Original) A method of providing a composition comprising purified stem cells for introducing into a patient, comprising:

- (a) processing collagen-based tissue obtained from a patient to separate cells therein from other tissue components;
- (b) purifying the separated cells; and

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(c) placing said separated cells in a container, thereby providing a composition comprising purified stem cells.

33-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said collagen-based tissue is adipose tissue or umbilical cord matrix.

38. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other purified cells.

39-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) A kit useful in the treatment or prevention of an injury or disease in an animal, comprising: a container comprising a composition comprising a stem cell population purified from a collagen-based tissue obtained from an animal.

49. (Cancelled).

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 48, wherein said container is a syringe or cryovial.

52-54. (Cancelled).

55. (Original) The kit of claim 48, wherein said collagen-based tissue was obtained from the animal to be treated.

56-58. (Cancelled).

59. (Original) The kit of claim 48, wherein said collagen-based tissue is adipose tissue obtained from the tail head region of the animal.

60-79. (Cancelled).

80. (Original) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells for delivery to a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining collagen-based tissue from said patient;
- (b) processing said collagen-based tissue to separate cells therein from other tissue components; and

- (c) purifying the separated cells,

wherein said processing comprises contacting said collagen-based tissue with a series of screens, thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells.

81-95. (Cancelled).

96. (Original) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells for providing to a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining collagen-based tissue from said patient; and
- (b) processing said collagen-based tissue to isolate cells therein from other tissue components,

wherein said processing comprises contacting the tissue with a surface to which the tissue adheres, thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells.

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97-113. (Cancelled).

114. (Original) A device adapted for preparing a cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells, comprising a series of mesh screens, arrayed such that one or more of the screens may be separated from each other while in contact with a collagen-based tissue sample.

115-118. (Cancelled).

119. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or preventing an injury or disease in a patient, comprising providing to said patient ~~an isolated cell population or a composition comprising stem cells purified from a collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells prepared according to a method of any one of claims 1, 21, 32, 80, or 96~~ tissue, wherein said stem cells have not been isolated from other purified cells.

120-127. (Cancelled).

128. (Original) The method of claim 119, wherein said injury is selected from the group consisting of: sprain, strain, dislocation, bruising, tear, and fracture.

129-150. (Cancelled).